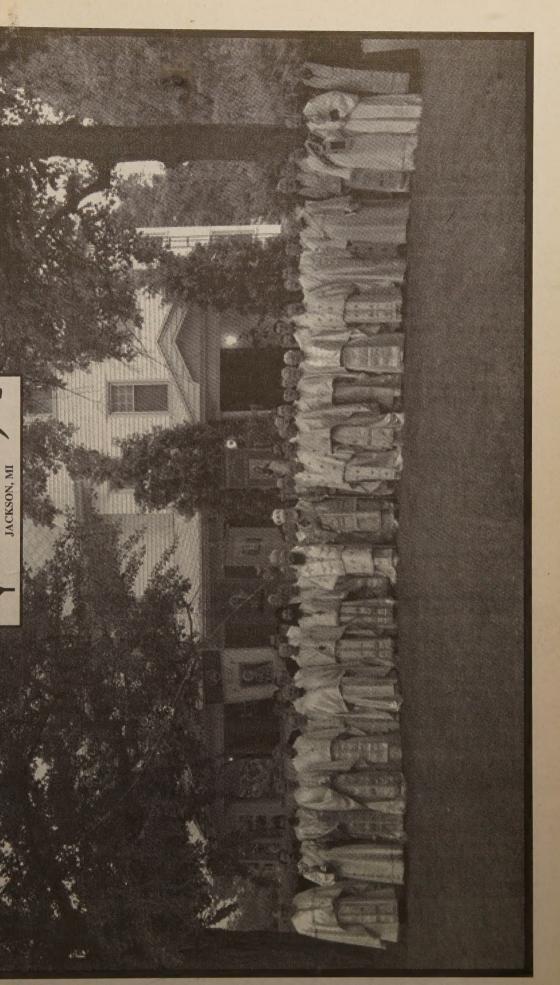
JULY 2006





Most Rev. Archbishop

Nathaniel Popp

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Maica Preoteasă
Invitatio

INVITATION

The Great Feast of "The Nativity of the Ever Virgin Mary"

PATRONAL FEAST OF VATRA ROMÂNEASCĂ

SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 7

6:00 pm Great Vespers with the Litia Service

Friday, September 8

8:00 am Matins

9:00 am Hierarchal Divine Liturgy

> (Concelebrated by Archbishop Nathaniel & Bishop Irineu) followed by an agape meal donated by Virgil & Emilia Barbu Family.

> > Vatra Românească

2522 Grey Tower Rd Jackson (Grass Lake), Michigan

For directions, see the Solia Calendar or visit www.roea.org/chancery.htm.

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74TH EPISCOPATE CONGRESS

Clergy Conference: At the invitation of His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, Episcopate clergy met at the Vatra the day prior to the Episcopate Congress, June 29, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. His Eminence, Nathaniel and His Grace, Irineu presided over the Divine Liturgy. After breakfast, the clergy met in the Valerian D. Trifa Romanian Heritage Center. His Eminence read his prepared Speech to the 74th Episcopate Congress: "Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well" (Mt. 6:33).

The major points the Archbishop touched on were: seeking the kingdom of God; repentance; the complexity of the Episcopate; its four purposes; the uniqueness of the Church as not secular nor democratic but powered by God; good order in the Church; his Pastoral Letter (on the relationship of the ROEA and OCA); the resumption of the JDC work; peace through repentance; By-Law revision; on-going need for a second auxiliary bishop.

The Very Reverend Archimandrite Dr. Mihail (Filimon), Abbot of the Holy Ascension Monastery, Detroit, gave a presentation on monasticism, and in particular, on the monastery in Detroit. Abbot Mihail stated that he considered that the desire of Bishop Policarp Morusca to have monasteries was fulfilled in the presence of the Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction and Holy Ascension in Detroit. Father Mihail reminded the clergy that it is one thing to encourage the establishment of a monastery and another to support it through prayer and financial support. He also exhorted the clergy to encourage young people to become interested in the monastic life and to speak to the faithful to also promote the vocation to monasticism.

A lively discussion followed. Very Reverend Archimandrite Roman (Braga) spoke on the outreach of the Church in the community, and on the experience of the Holy Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction. Some of the fathers stated that they were content to serve the spiritual needs of the Romanian community only. Others disagreed with this vision of the role of the local parish and of the Episcopate as Church in North America. Vespers were celebrated and then the fathers and guests partook of sup-

Episcopate Council Meeting: The Episcopate Council met in its annual pre-Congress session hosted by the Valerian D. Trifa Romanian Heritage Center. Among the issues discussed was the result of the Referendum on Clergy Accreditation which a committee had prepared in the view that there were many requests by clergy for accreditation as per the Episcopate By-Laws regarding un-assigned clergy and monastics. Under consideration was the number of deacons, mission clergy and monastics asking for accreditation. It was decided that the monasteries will be represented by the Abbess/Abbot; mission clergy if the mission had fulfilled its financial support to the Episcopate. The Council based its decision on the fact that the Congress is representational and that parishes are now properly represented according to the By-Laws.

The requests for parish status of the missions of Sts Constantine and Helen, Lilburn, GA and Three Hierarchs, Seattle, WA were heard and accepted for presentation to Congress; the ROEA Employment Contract Committee gave its report; the Archbishop's letter to St. Mary Parish, Queens, New York was read and the threatening letter of Fr. Remus Bleahu was made know to Council.

Opening Congress Session: Following the Divine Liturgy on Friday morning, delegates met in the Upper Church, and led in prayer by His Eminence, Nathaniel, invoked the Holy Spirit on the Congress. The two mission communities were unanimously elevated as parishes of the Episcopate. Letters of congratulations were read from President and Mrs. Bush; Mayor Griffin of Jackson and other dignitaries. The opening session had 103 delegates present. The Archbishop read his Address to the 74th Congress which was distributed in both Romanian and English copies.

At the invitation of His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, Rev. Fr. Catalin Mitescu, Ph.D. chaired the Congress. Reports were given according to the distributed "Report to the Congress".

Concern was stated about the integrity of the minutes of the 2005 Congress; the minutes were accepted as presented.

In the afternoon session, the Department of Finance report was given along with the CPA Audit for the year 2005. Concern was expressed whether the liquid assets of the Episcopate were duly insured according to the FDIC. The purchase of the new acreage adjoining Vatra to the East was duly noted. The salaries of the Episcopate Chancery were distributed for review. Department reports were presented from the Congress Report booklet. Delegates attended the Vesper Service at which sermons in Romanian and English were given and confessions heard. Supper was served following the holy service.

Saturday Sessions: Father Catalin Mitescu opened the sessions with 112 delegates present. A report was given on external affairs. Members of the Joint Dialogue Commission (JDC) presented a statement on its present status and questions were fielded by the same.

After lunch, the delegates resumed their work. Delegates continued the discussion concerning the activities of the JDC. His Eminence requested the Congress to "encourage the continuation of the commission's work" and of the commission to "continue their work expeditiously." Auxiliary reports were presented as per the Congress Report booklet. All reports were accepted as were the proposed budgets.

The Chair thanked: the host parish, St. John the Baptizer, Glendale, Arizona; St. Mary Cathedral Ladies Auxiliary for hosting the ARFORA Coffee Shop; the "Ad Hoc" choral group which would give responses to the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy on Sunday. The Archbishop thanked His Grace, Irineu, for his activities; the Episcopate Chancery Staff and the Episcopate Council. Vespers were served, sermons given in Romanian and English and confessions heard. A musical program was presented during and following dinner.

Sunday Divine Liturgy: His Eminence, Nathaniel, and His Grace, Irineu, concelebrated the Divine Liturgy assisted by clergy and deacons of the Episcopate. The banquet was held in the Pavilion hall. Delegates and guests parted from Vatra thankful to God for his many blessings on the Episcopate, parishes and monasteries.

GIFTS DIFFERING

by Hieromonk Calinic (Berger)

ORTHODOX

THOUGHT

and life

St. Paul writes in Romans that though we are all one body in Christ, each one of us has different gifts (Rom 12:5-6). God has given each one of us a gift, and that gift was given in order to help others. God does not give us gifts for ourselves. However, by using our gifts for others we develop our own gifts – we sharpen the talents, intuitions and abilities God has given us – and thereby we develop ourselves as persons. We respond to God's deeds with our own deeds; and we respond to God's gifts by using these gifts.

Not all have the same gifts. Paul says we have been

given "gifts differing according to the grace given us," but does not imply that some gifts are better than others. Diversity of gifts, just as diversity of persons, gives dynamism to human life and makes it interesting. We fit together like a mosaic; we make music as in an orchestra. Without proper balance in gifts, there can be no art and no music. Each must play the role God has given,

without thinking it insignificant, or on the other hand, all-important. God, after all, is the artist and the conductor.

Our society today teaches us the complete opposite. In the first sense, it teaches that gifts are given for one's own glory and distinction, instead of that of God's. And it does this because it sees a self-centered goal of life. Society is designed to make us think about ourselves constantly: our own success, security, fulfillment; in short, happiness. Our own happiness is the goal of life. If we are not perfectly happy in everything, as to our jobs, our relationships, whatever—then we panic that somethow our life is not going the way it should, that something is wrong and must be immediately changed, no matter what or whom this will affect. The great anxiety of Western life is that we are not going to be perfectly happy in every instant.

St. Paul liberates us from all this false anxiety. First, he says, don't worry about the fact that another person has a gift that you don't have. You have your own gift, and it is equally important. In fact, it's much more important for you, and your spiritual development, your fulfillment – both your self-fulfillment and the fulfillment of God's plan in your life. In fact, your self-fulfillment is to fulfill God's plan in your life, and God has equipped you with the gifts needed to do this. When God's plan is our plan, then we are truly happy, peaceful and productive because we have a purpose beyond ourselves. This is the case come what

may in sorrows or disappointments. Paul also liberates us from this anxiety by telling us our gifts are to be used for others, most especially for God and the Church, and not for ourselves.

If we follow our society and the life style today which teaches us a spiritual orientation that is egotistical – that our goals should be all about ourselves, all about what we want, to be happy and fulfilled – then we can never be happy. Simply put, because that is not how God created us. He created us for Himself and for each other. Only other persons give our life meaning, warmth and love. And so, only by using the

gifts He gave us for the good of those around us, thereby glorifying Him, do we find happiness. But let us be clear: the goal is not our fellow man, but the goal is to please God. Our neighbor is like a window to this goal.

Recently at Project Mexico, a group from AROY helped build a house for a poor family living in a shack [see article this issue of Solia].

Many of our youth had never seen such poverty before. The one universal observation was how happy all the people were. They were so much more content with life and with what little they had. *Happier with less* – how can this be? The people in Mexico shared the only thing they had to share: their humanity. And this is the goal of all sharing. Hence their fulfillment.

When we who come from a more affluent society see this, we are amazed. We see something beautiful. We all want that by nature because it is what gives life meaning, warmth and depth. It makes life interesting. Fr. Stăniloae wrote, "Our humanity has been so overlaid with artificiality, by the desire to appear rather than to be, that when it reveals its true self it causes amazement...". Truly this is the case: when true humanity is revealed, it is beautiful and attractive in a way we cannot articulate, even though the person possessing it is externally unimpressive. It reflects God.

Serving others in the name of Christ is a hallmark of Christian spirituality and a cornerstone of human fulfillment. One of the reasons why AROY members saw something that touched them was because they had opened themselves to see it. They did not go to Mexico for a good time or a vacation but to give their time and talents for a cause unrelated to their own "goals." They went to serve others in the name of Christ

This experience reflects the truth that St. Paul is Cont. on page 5

CONVOCATION

In conformity with Article 1, Section 2 of the By-Laws of the Romanian Orthodox Deanery of Canada, we hereby call into session

The Eighth Annual Assembly of the Romanian Orthodox Deanery of Canada and the Annual meetings of the following Canadian auxiliaries of the R.O.E.A.:

The Orthodox Brotherhood of Canada, and the Association of Romanian Canadian Orthodox Ladies Auxiliaries

Friday, September 29 – Sunday, October 1, 2006 at the Romanian Orthodox Deanery Centre of Canada at B-Say-Tah Road and Mackay Hill Road, Ft. Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.

+Archbishop NATHANIEL

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 29

12:00 noon Registrations & Lunch

1:00 pm Invocation to the Holy Spirit

1:30 pm Clergy Conference

5:00 pm Vespers Service / Sermon

6:00 pm Supper

Saturday, September 30

8:30 am Registrations / Breakfast

9:30 am R.O.D.O.C. Annual Assembly

12:00 noon Lunch

1:00 pm Orthodox Brotherhood of Canada

Annual Meeting

3:00 pm A.R.C.O.L.A. Annual Meeting

5:00 pm Vesper Service / Sermon

6:00 pm Supper

Sunday, October 1

(at St. George Cathedral, Regina)

8:30 am Matins

9:45 am Receiving of His Eminence,

Archbishop Nathaniel

10:00 am Hierarchal Divine Liturgy

1:00 pm Appreciation Dinner:

Dean V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Nenson

Gifts Differing Cont. from page 4

expressing in Romans: use your gifts for God and neighbor and you will be fulfilled. "Be not conformed to this world" – for things cannot make you happy – "but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" – by orienting your energies and gifts to God (Rom 12:2). In giving, you will receive back much more. Work to acquire the Holy Spirit and His gifts. Only in this way will we become the persons God intends us to become and thereby attain a fulfillment that goes far beyond our anticipation.

WE WANT YOU AS A MEMBER OF THE ORTHODOX BROTHERHOOD USA

WHO WE ARE

The Orthodox Brotherhood auxiliary was founded in 1967. Our auxiliary provides an effective means for the laity as well as clergy to serve the Church. We are a religious organization and an auxiliary of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, a nation-wide group of volunteers that work together to further the aims of the Episcopate. Our members meet annually to review accomplishments, establish new goals and enjoy fellowship.

WHAT WE DO

We support our Episcopate through fundraising activities and sponsorship of:

Religious education (Vatra youth camp)

Religious publications (calendar/prayer book, service books, etc.)

Episcopate missions (newly forming parishes), Activities promoting the Orthodox faith.

PLEASE JOIN US BY COMPLETING THE MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT AND BECOME ACTIVE IN OUR FUTURE.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT COUPON

Please enroll me (us) as a member (s) of the Orthodox Brotherhood USA.

Enclosed please find \$ ______in membership dues (\$20.00 per person).

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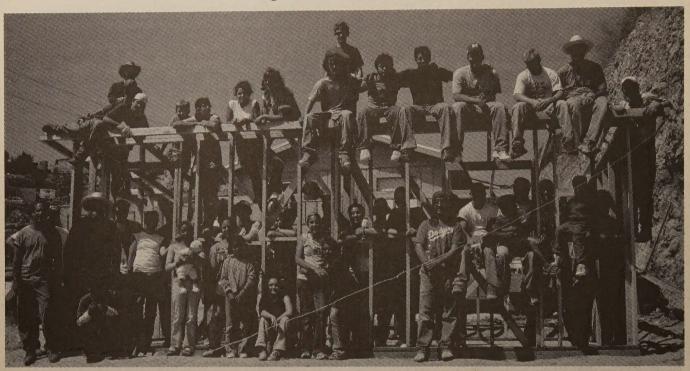
BIRTHDAY _____ ANNIVERSARY ____

PARISH

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Mail to: Orthodox Brotherhood USA c/o Rodica Dicoi – Membership Chairperson 13533 Darryl Dr, Warren, MI 48088

2006 AROY MISSION TRIP PROJECT MEXICO



AROY members formed part of the work crew that built a house for a Mexican family.

On June 20-26, 2006, AROY sent a mission team to Project Mexico, an Orthodox Christian Charitable Mission (founded by Gregory Yova, son of +Protodeacon Paul Yova, past AROY National President) and his wife, Margaret. Project Mexico has a dual ministry of building houses for homeless families and operating an Orthodox Christian orphanage for 27 boys, the St. Innocent Ranch, which is also home to an Orthodox church in which the daily services are celebrated by the entire ranch community in the Spanish language.

The AROY team helped build Project Mexico's 140th home, as well as helping with other projects around the Ranch. Participants in this year's trip included Bogdan Maxim, Winston Miroy, Andrei Gaspar, Alexandra Reed-Lopez, James Stark, Jacob Zimmerman, Brett Zimmerman, Nathaniel Geist, David Beck, Michael Beck, Jeremy McDonald, Fr. Joseph Morris, Fr. David Subu, and Fr. Calinic Berger, AROY Spiritual Advisor.

Spiritual Reflections on the Project Mexico Experience

by Alexandra Reed-Lopez

"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence." - Mother Teresa Before going to Project Mexico, I would have read this statement and asked myself, What is this noise and restlessness that Mother Teresa is talking about? Should I look for God when I am alone in my room at night and the world is silent around me? Is this when and where I will supposedly find Him?

I had prayed in silence, I'd prayed in Church, I'd prayed alone, in groups, before meals, after meals. I'd prayed with my class, before school, during school, and after school.

Two weeks ago, I thought I had already found God in my prayers. After considering this statement, I would have been confused, trying to discover what this "silence" was that Mother Teresa was talking about. I don't think I would have been able to explain to a group of people what exactly she meant when she said this. I'm not even sure I can explain it now, but at least I have an idea.

After my first night at Project Mexico, which consisted of restless sleep on a plywood platform in a cabin lacking the utilities that I was used to at home (water, electricity, heat), I awoke grim and a bit unenthused. I headed to chapel, uncertain of what the day would bring. I left morning prayers refreshed, ready to eat breakfast, head to the work site, and begin the building process. However, St. Innocent's Orphanage and Project Mexico provide all volunteers with 20 minutes of quiet time after chapel in order to pray, write in journals, or simply reflect on one's

surroundings. Although I had prayed before starting my day before, I had never taken quiet time to just think and take in the moment. I sat on the steps and looked out over the orphanage. Everywhere I looked, whether it was north, south, east, or west, I stared poverty in the face. My way of life was unknown here, the boys that I had met at the orphanage the night before had few personal possessions, no family, no one to turn to outside of the orphanage. The family for whom we were building a house (so I had been informed the night before), was living in a shack smaller than the size of my bedroom, and the parents were struggling to provide a warm and safe home for their 6-month-old son, Angel, to grow up in. I didn't know what to expect, or how anyone would react to our volunteering.



The author (left) with the family

HAPPY. That's how I would describe their reactions. María, and Ascunsión, were delighted when our Project Mexico truck pulled up to the work site and we began unloading the trucks to start the building process. I was shocked to see Ascunsión jump right in with the group and begin hoeing his future lot alongside of us. HAPPY. Happy is what María and her mother were on the 4th day of building, when they spent almost 2 week's wages to buy food and cook a traditional Mexican meal for our group of 40 people. who had built them a home, then hauled it to the work site for everyone to share our meal together. HAPPY is the expression on María and Ascunsión's faces when we were done blessing the house and they waved us our final good-bye. HAPPY is what the boys at the orphanage were, just to be able to have the opportunity to play with us. HAPPINESS is what I learned on my trip.

By the end of the week, I came to realize that poverty itself is the "silence" that Mother Teresa was talking about. Being in such a remote area of a country with so little technology and infrastructure, I didn't know if I would be able to spend (let alone enjoy) the week without TV, videogames, or cell phones. However, the days passed, and I came to the realization

that the week had flown by, I had had fun, and that all those things I thought I was going to miss were really just "noise" in my life. They were distractions that many of the people I had encountered in Mexico didn't have, yet they seemed not to notice, many of them even appeared much happier than I was.

Until that moment, I didn't realize the immensity of the program that is Project Mexico. Not only is it a great program because of the work that you are doing for God and for others, but it is truly a benefit for one's spiritual self. Truly, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

100TH ANNIVERSARY

HOLY TRINITY ROMANIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
626 WICK AVE., YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

OCTOBER 14-15, 2006

Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 14

5:00 p.m. - Great Vespers, Memorial Service Reception & Program – Parish Social Hall

Sunday, October 15

9:00 a.m. - Matins

9:45 a.m. - Vesting of Hierarchs

10:00 a.m. - Hierarchal Divine Liturgy

1:00 p.m. - Reception at Banquet Center

2:00 p.m. - Grand Banquet at Banquet Center

Sunday Reception/Banquet

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Banquet Center 343 Via Mt. Carmel Youngstown, OH

Approx. 5 blocks Southeast of Holy Trinity Church

Banquet is by reservation ONLY, no tickets sold at the door.

Cost \$35.00 adults \$20.00 children 12 and under Tickets will not be sold after **September 30th**.

To purchase tickets -

ticket request forms are available - contact:
Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church
100th Anniversary Committee
626 Wick Ave., Youngstown, OH 44502
(330) 746-5397 or Judy Shonn - (330) 792-8464

Hotel Accommodations:

Holiday Inn Metroplex 1620 Motor Inn Dr (near Belmont Ave, Rte 193) Girard, OH 44420 (330) 759-0606 or (330) 759-6606

STANDING CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN MIDDLE-EASTERN CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONVENES IN AN EMERGENCY SESSION AND ISSUES A RESOLUTION



The members of the Standing Conference of American Middle-Eastern Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders who attended the August 6th emergency Meeting (l. to r.) Bishop Antoun, Fr. Nerses Manoogian, Sheik Sami Merhi, Metropolitan Philip, Sheikh Hamad Ahmad Chebli, Imam Fadhel Al-Sahlani, Mr. Abdulbaset Ibrahim.

On Thursday August 3rd, 2006, the members of the Standing Conference of American Middle-Eastern Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders convened for an emergency meeting to discuss and take action on the current crisis in Lebanon. The meeting was hosted by the Chairman, His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and was held at the head-quarters of the Antiochian Archdiocese in Englewood, New Jersey. The following were in attendance:

Metropolitan Philip (Saliba), Chairman and Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

His Excellency Tarek Mitri – Minister of Culture and Acting Foreign Minister of Lebanon

His Excellency Nouhad Mahmoud – Acting Ambassador of Lebanon to the UN

Sheikh Sami Merhi – Chairman, Druze Council of America

Sheikh Hamad Ahmad Chebli – Islamic Society of Central New Jersey

Imam Fadhel Al-Sahlani – Imam Al-Khoei Islamic Center of Jamica, NY

Bishop Antoun Khouri, Bishop of Miami and the Diocese of the Southeast

Fr. Nerses Manoogian representing Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan – Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America Very Rev. John Meno representing Archbishop Cyril Aphrem Karim – Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church

Mr. Abdulbaset Ibrahim - Vice President of InterTrama Corp. accompanying Imam Al-Sahlani

The following members were not able to attend the meeting: Most Rev. Archbishop Cyril Salim Bustros, Eparch of Newton, Diocese of Newton, MA, Rt. Rev. Bishop Gregory Mansour, Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, NY.

The members discussed the enormous crisis that has been caused in Lebanon by the Israeli bombing and ground offensive. These Israeli military actions have killed more than 900 Lebanese, and have displaced almost 1 million Lebanese citizens from their homes. The vast majority of those Lebanese who have been killed are civilians, and more than one-third of them have been children.

The members of the Standing Conference expressed their solidarity by unanimously approving the following resolution:

- 1. A call for an immediate and unconditional cease fire to stop the death and destruction.
- 2. A call for the exchange of prisoners between Lebanon and Israel.
- 3. A call for Israel to withdraw from the Shib'aa Farms, which Israel has occupied since 1967, and all other occupied Lebanese lands.

SOLIA CALENDAR 2007

CALENDARYI SOKIA

The Annual Almanac published by The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America in December 2006 for all parishes and parishioners throughout the United States and Canada.

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- Photographs taken with a digital camera must be 5.0 megapixels or higher, and submitted in digital format (CD or email)
- Scanned images must be scanned at a resolution of 1200 dpi.
- Both black & white and color photographs are accepted, however, all ads are printed in black & white
- Photos must be clear, focused and with proper lighting (printer uses 133 line screen)
- Only one (1) photo per ad (if 2 or more photos are included for a full page, each photo will be charged the 1/2 page rate)

DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2006

AUXILIARY BISHOP SCHEDULE

January 1. Grass Lake, MI. Vatra Romaneasca. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

January 6. Toronto, ON. St. George. Hierarchal Divine

Liturgy. Great Blessing of Waters for Theophany.

January 7. Scarborough, ON. St. John the Theologian Mission. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Great Blessing of Waters for Theophany.

January 8. Toronto, ON. St. George. Hierarchal Divine

Liturgy.

January 9. Grass Lake, MI. Vatra Romaneasca. Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Iosif from Paris.

January 15. Dearborn Heights, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Bishop Irineu offered Holy Relics for the parish.

January 21-22. Chicago, IL. St. Mary. Saturday: Great Vespers. Assisted Archbishop Nathaniel. Sunday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy concelebrated with Archbishop Nathaniel. Baptism of Michael Nathaniel Ursache, son of Rev. Fr. George & Psa. Ramona Ursache.

January 28-30. Alexandria, VA. Holy Cross. Saturday: Baptism of Matei Nicolae Ducaru, son of Romanian Ambassador, Sorin Ducaru, concelebrated with Archbishop Nicolae Condrea. Sunday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Monday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Blessing of the new property.

February 2. Detroit, MI. Ascension Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy for feast of Presentation of the Lord.

February 5. Clearwater, FL. St. Stephen the Great Mission. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Parish Council Meeting.

February 11-12. Miramar, FL. Holy Trinity. Saturday: Great Vespers. Sunday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Banquet.

February 19. Montreal, QC. Ascension Mission. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Baptism of Antonia Stoleru, daughter of Rev. Dn. Catalin & Psa. Raluca Stoleru.

February 23. Detroit, MI. Ascension Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy concelebrated with Archbishop Nathaniel on occasion of 5th Anniversary of Monastery. Founding.

February 26. Dearborn Heights, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Evening: Wedding of Valentin & Amalia Filip-Nicola, Bishop Irineu's sister.

March 4-5. Seattle, WA. Three Hierarchs Mission. Saturday: Fund-Raising Banquet. Sunday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

March 12. Detroit, MI. Ascension Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

March 19-20. Elmhurst, NY. St. Mary. Sunday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Monday: Atlantic Deanery Meeting.

March 25. Grass Lake, MI. St. Mary Chapel. Monastic Tonsure of Priest Daniel (Dumitru) Jitianu to be Hieromonk.

March 26. Detroit, MI. Ascension Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

April 2. Hagerstown, MD. St. Philothea of Arges Mission. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

April 9. Ottawa, QC. St. Nicholas Mission. Hierarchal

Divine Liturgy.

April 15. Sacramento, CA. Sts. Michael & Gabriel. Visit to church & new property for Parish Hall construction. Evening: Hayward, CA. Holy Resurrection. Vespers.

April 16. Hayward, CA. Holy Resurrection. Hierar-

chal Divine Liturgy.

April 17. San Jose, CA. Holy Cross Mission. Visit to construction site of new church.

April 20-21. Palm Springs, CA. Sts. Michael & Gabriel. Holy Thursday: Twelve Gospels service. Holy Friday: Lamentations service.

April 22-23. Anaheim, CA. St. Mary. Resurrection Service & Paschal Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

April 23. Los Angeles, CA. Holy Trinity. Afternoon: Agape Vespers. Evening: Anaheim, CA. St. Mary. Great Vespers for St. George.

April 24. San Diego, CA. Holy Cross. Bright Tuesday Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

April 27-29. Portland, OR. St. Mary. Thursday: Vespers. Assisted Archbishop Nathaniel. Friday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy assisted by Archbishop Nathaniel. Evening: Vespers. Assisted Archbishop Nathaniel. Saturday: Consecration of new church. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy concelebrated with Archbishop Nathaniel.

April 30. Oregon City, OR. Descent of Holy Spirit. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

May 4. Syosset, NY. OCA Chancery. Audience with His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman.

May 6. Dearborn Heights, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul. Marriage of Mircea & Anca Vasiu.

May 7. Detroit, MI. Ascension Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Afternoon: Baptism of Nicholas Petre.

May 14. Dearborn Heights, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

May 20-21. Southfield, MI. St. George Cathedral. Saturday: Episcopate Council Meeting. Sunday: Hierarchal Divine Liturgy concelebrated with Archbishop Nathaniel.

May 22-25. Syosset, NY. OCA Chancery. Holy Synod Meeting.

May 28. Cambridge, MA. Nativity of the Ever-Virgin Mary Mission. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

May 29. South Canaan, PA. St. Tikhon Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy concelebrated with Metropolitan Herman and six bishops of the OCA Holy Synod at the Monastery's 102nd Annual Pilgrimage.

June 1. Detroit, MI. Ascension Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy for feast of Ascension of the Lord.

June 4. Hazleton, PA. St. Joseph of Maramures. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

June 11. Dearborn Heights, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

June 12. Grass Lake, MI. Vatra Romaneasca. Akathist for Holy Trinity day.

June 18. Seattle, WA. Three Hierarchs Mission. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Blessing of Cornerstone. Blessing for the silver wedding anniversary of Nick & Lucy Muresan.

June 24. Grass Lake, MI. Vatra Romaneasca. Akathist for Birth of St. John the Forerunner & Baptizer.

June 25. Alliance, OH. St. Nicholas. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

June 29 - July 2. Grass Lake, MI. Vatra Romaneasca. Annual Church Congress.

PARISH REGISTER

- Albu, George Christian, son of Ioan & Mirela Florentina Albu, Norcross, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Nicolae & Mihaela Mihalachioaei.
- **Badircu**, **Julia Nicole**, daughter of Robert & Monica Badircu, Duluth, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Dragos & Loredana Nastase.
- Badoiu, Cristian Nicolae, son of Marian C. & Sweeney S. Badoiu, South Nyack, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Sorin & Smaranda Lungu.
- Balan, Alex Julien, son of Mihu Balan & Zenovia Croitoru, Montreal, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Andrei & Laura Constantinescu; Radu & Ruxandra Nicolau.
- Balan, Andrea Arabella, daughter of George & Cristina Balan, Lawrenceville, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Bogdan Mirza.
- Balan, Claudia, daughter of Lucijan Krisan & Voinca Balan, Jamaica Estates, NY. Sts. Michael & Gabriel, Middle Village, NY. Godparents: Stefan & Persida Vionea.
- Banisor, Al Gabriel Adrian, son of Mircea V. & Daniela S.L. Banisor, Belleville, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Adrian & Lia Pasculescu.
- Bergeron, Alexandre, son of Claude Bergeron & Cristina Popescu, Deux-Montagnes, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Rene Miron & Marie C. Oestegny.
- **Bobocea**, Isabela Cristina, daughter of Mihai S. Bobocea & Manuela A. Savu, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Cristian & Luiza E. Marin.
- Botnari, Michel, son of Mihail & Aurelia Botnari, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Gabriel & Corina Aiordachioaie.
- **Buse, Karina**, daughter of Marcu D. Buse & Irina V. Hotnog, Laval, QC. Annunciation, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Karin Hermann.
- Busoi, Lucas Stephen, son of Cristian A. & Miruna S. Busoi, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Dan Jors & Carmen Vasile.
- Carpio-Lacatusu, Matei Sebastian, son of Daniel Carpio & Carmen I. Carpio-Lacatusu, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Herbert Azmitia & Mirela Marin.
- Comaniciu, Stefan Matei, son of Ovidiu V. & Cristina L. Comaniciu, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Sorin & Carmen Racu.
- Ciobanu, Ana-Maria, daughter of Cristian G. Ciobanu & Mihaela C. Baber, Kings, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Daniela Hatar.
- Ciofu, Stefan, son of Marius D. & Alina Ciofu, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Ionut & Dana O. Roibu.
- Chifan, Josephine S., daughter of Petru & Ana Maria Chifan, Duluth, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Marius Cujba.
- Chiru, Melania Andreea, daughter of Cristian Chiru & Elena Gherghescu, LaSalle, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Raul & Gratiela Suciu.
- Circoana, Emma, daughter of Petru A. & Felicia M. Circoana, Richmond Hill, ON. St John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Arina G. Nummi.

- Ciubotaru, Andrea Maria, daughter of Petru & Iulica Ciubotaru, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Alexandru & Simona G. Merica.
- Ciubotaru, Petra Alexandra, daughter of Petru & Iulica Ciubotaru, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Gheorghe & Veronica Marin.
- Coman, Danielle, daughter of Gheorghe & Carmen N. Coman, Richmond Hill, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Mike & Ellen Gust.
- Cosereanu, Nicholas Christian, son of Marian & Nicoleta L. Cosereanu, Lilburn, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: George & Adriana Budu.
- Costache, Adrian Matthew, son of Stefan & Ecaterina C. Costache, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Florin & Adriana S. Cristescu.
- Cozma, Jason Connor, son of Stelian Cozma & Ioana Lupascu, Oakville, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Stelian & Carmen Priescu.
- Cusmir, Robert Alexandru, son of Ioan E. & Elena C. Cusmir, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Dan & Ilinca Florea.
- Cucu, Gabrielle Marie, daughter of Gabi M. Cucu & Rosa M. Perez, Union City, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Paul Belibrov.
- Diculescu, Stephan Aidan, son of Marius & Angelica F. Diculescu, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Pompiliu & Jeni Marin.
- Dinca, Thomas, son of Claudiu S. & Alyson K. Dinca, Huntsville, AL. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Mircea & Nicoleta Fierbinteanu.
- Dobre, Eric Alexander, son of Marius & Cristina C. Dobre, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Cristina & Cristina Oniga; Angel & Gianina Ticsa.
- Douglas, Ariana Samara, daughter of Anthony Hugh Douglas, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Dorin & Anca Ungur.
- Filip, Sabrina Maria, daughter of Dinu I & Roxana Lacramioara Filip, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Ilie & Simona C. Preda.
- Florea, Alexandru Dan, son of Radu O. & Daniela M. Florea, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Calin & Mirela Barbos.
- Floricoiu, Tara Ana Maria, daughter of Filip C. Floricoiu & Roxana D. Cristea, Duluth, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Cristian Ardeleanu & Cristina Anghel.
- Gheorghe, Brian Radu Constantin, son of Iulian & Mariana Gheorghe, Canton, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Constantin & Niculina Dinu.
- Girleanu, Mara, daughter of Lucian & Claudia M. Girleanu, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Radu & Irina Holic.
- Greceanu, Darius, son of Iulian M. Greceanu & Emanuela C. Jinga, Montreal, QC. Annunciation, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Nicolae P. & Mariana Pernea.
- Grecu, Antony Alexio, son of Mircea Grecu & Monica N. Turcas, Mississauga, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Ovidiu & Vasilica Hornar.

Parish Register Cont. from page 11

Guta, Sebastian Tudor Matei, son of Marian I. & Luminita Guta, Oakville, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Cornelia Jeltopop.

Gutu, Alexandrina Laura, daughter of Daniel Gutu & Katherine R. Figuration, Markham, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Catalin & Iulia Mandache.

Hanea, Diana Maria, daughter of Adrian & Raluca Hanea, Sugarhill, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Justin & Raluca Miller.

Hatami, Sabrina, daughter of Abolali Hatami & Anca Giurgiu, Montreal, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Florin & Anda Dumitrache.

Ioanidis, Zoe Alicia, daughter of Simon & Kimberley Ioanidis, Regina, SK. St. George Cathedral, Regina, SK. Godparents: Mary Birch.

Iosif, Nicholas, son of Viorel & Viorica R. Iosif, Richmond Hill, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Adrian & Tatiana Nicolae.

Jones, James Earl, son of James E. & Maria A. Jones, Ypsilanti, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul, Dearborn Heights, MI. Godparents: Bogdan & Marcela Simionescu.

Kemp, Carissa Alice, daughter of Wayne Kemp & Susie Petrisor, Prince Albert, SK. St. George Cathedral, Regina, SK. Godparents: Jeremy Petrisor & Jocelyn Lafond.

Kimmig, Richard Maximilian, son of Gustav & Anisa Kimmig, Cumming, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Simona Stanciu.

Kukta, Matthew Robert, son of Robert V. Kukta & Alina Stroia, Stony Brook, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Ana Stroia.

Kuzmenko, Maria Theodora, daughter of Sergiy & Laura E. Kuzmenko; Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Cosmin & Ramona C. Truta.

Lazureanu, Anne Marie, daughter of Ion & Simona Lazureanu, Mauldin, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Gheorghe & Mariana Lazureanu.

Linter, Alicia Maria, daughter of Cristian Linter & Stanca Lonean, Montreal, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Catalin & Camelia Oros.

Manga, Andrew Sebastian, son of Cristian E. & Floarea Manga, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Radu B. & Mirela M. Mateescu.

Matei, Emma, daughter of Calin & Nicoleta Matei, Thornhill, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Razvan & Gabriela Surdu.

Marchese, Pierce Edward, son of Edward & Lorena Marchese, Rochester Hills, MI. Descent of the Holy Spirit, Warren, MI. Godparents: Doru Bali & Michele Marchese.

Maroun, Rita Maria, daughter of Bassam & Marie Maroun, Laval, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Adrian Gandu & Alexandra Hlass.

Masse-Podgornei, Christina, daughter of Titus Podgornei & Josee Masse, Montreal, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Daniel Podgornei & Conceta Toteda.

Mihalescu, Sebastian, son of Ghita M. Mihalescu & Cerasela R. Muresan, Lawrenceville, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Constantin Mihalescu.

Moldoveanu, Adrian Nicholas, son of Bogdan G. & Daniela Moldoveanu, Thornhill, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Marius & Mihaela Stan.

Motoc, Santi, son of George A. & Georgia Motoc, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Marius & Catalina Badescu.

Murariu, Alexandra, daughter of Valentin Murariu & Bianca Borbiro, Beloeil, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Maxime Leroux & Daliana Mutiu.

Narag-Constantin, Gabriel, son of Sebastian Constantin & Trifanea Narag, Montreal, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Dorin & Luigia Leuletu.

Naum, Maria Charlene, daughter of Robert Cristian & Sorina Naum, Atlanta, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Ioan & Mariana Detrino.

Neagoe, Matei Alexandru, son of Alexandru R. & Romana I. Mississauga, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Catalin M. & Iulia Sultanovici.

Negru, Lorelei Sofia, daughter of Daniel G. & Antoaneta Negru, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Radu C. & Irina Holic.

Nenson, Konnor William Robert, son of William Nenson & Carolyn Mortimore, Regina, SK. St. George Cathedral, Regina, SK. Godparents: Ted & Christina Petrisor.

Nicolae, Danie Alexander, son of Ion A. & Tatiana M. Nicolae, Concord, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Dragos & Camelia Ghenov.

Niculescu, Petru Stefan, son of Calin M. & Oana Niculescu, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Sorin S. & Cristina Georgescu.

Nistorescu, Ravi Emilian, son of Dan A. Nistorescu & Sophia Persaud, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Cecilia Teodorescu.

Nye, Vanessa Maria, daughter of Glen & Marinika M. Nye, Macomb, MI. Descent of the Holy Spirit, Warren, MI. Godparents: Peter & Sofia Kisereau.

Oancea, Adrian, son of Mircea I. Oancea & Mihaela Ocian, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Diana Dinescu.

Opris, Alexandra, daughter of Alin Opris & Cristina Nistor, Montreal, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Ilie & Nicoleta Lunca.

Opris, Andrew Nicholas, son of Ovidiu N. & Claudia P. Opris, Oakville, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Eugen & Marinela Csiki.

Opris, Christian Constantin, son of Sorin & Cristina I. Opris, Barrie, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Paul & Corina Ghimbasan.

Panteleica, Julien Dan, son of Andrei & Ioana A. Panteleica, Brampton, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Mugur Cojocaru & Dora Savu.

Paval, Victor Ioan, son of Viorel I. & Oana Paval, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Emil & Liliana Fortala Handaric.

Pedraza, Tanner Emil, son of Fernando & Diamanta Pedraza, Wyckoff, NJ. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Liviu Caramanuta.

Petcu, Alexandru Stefan, son of Bogdan F. Petcu & Alina C. Tamasanu, Mississauga, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Gabriel & Vasilica Pirvulescu.

Petrovici, Alexandru, son of Radu L.Petrovici & Alina M. Mihai, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Eugen D. Filip & Sanda F. Mihai.

Pop, Erik David, son of Gabriel S. & Raluca Pop, Mississauga, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Andrei Stahie & Delia Pop.

Pop, Nicholas Jonathan, son of Ioan & Nicoleta Pop, Regina, SK. St. George Cathedral, Regina, SK. Godparents: Loredana Orasan.

Popovici, Alexandra Victoria, daughter of Victor & Lia Popovici, Toronto, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Andrei & Victoria Druta.

Popovici, Natalie, daughter of Adrian & Elena V. Popovici, Richmond Hills, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Catalin & Irina Adomnica.

Prunoiu, Maxim Andrei, son of Florea & Emilia Prunoiu, Vaughan, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Cristian M. & Mihaela Prunoiu.

Puie, Danny Ioan, son of Ioan D. & Simona D. Puie, Lawrenceville, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Danut & Nicoleta M. Macarie.

Purtuc, Brighton Sorin, son of Sorin Purtuc & Ying He, Philadelphia, PA. Descent of the Holy Spirit, Elkins Park,

PA. Godparents: Radu Purtuc.

Raceu, Alexandra, daughter of Nicolae & Laura D. Raceu, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Eduard & Loredana Pop.

Roman, Ryan Gino, son of Bogdan & Laura I. Roman, Duluth, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Reznik & Inna Mark.

Rosu, Ecaterina Alice, daughter of Cristian & Teodora Rosu, Mississauga, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Arina I. Larissa & Florian Rosu.

Sandor, Stefan, son of Doru I. & Mihaela T. Sandor, Toronto, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Marius & Maria Vlaicu.

Sauve, Luca Adrian, son of Erik Sauve & Laura Grigorescu, Repentigny, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Laurentiu & Moira Grigorescu.

Sava, Helen Anne, daughter of Catalin & Maria C. Sava, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: George

& Doina Cretan.

Schwimmer, Albert Gabriel, son of Sorin E. Schwimmer & Alina G. Constantinescu, Toronto, ON Godparents: Virgil & Loredana Livadariu.

Serban, Sara Alexia, daughter of Nicolae S. Serban & Alina A. Verenca, Sugar Hill, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Ovidiu & Vicky Cozma.

Serbana, Nicole, daughter of Gabriel M. & Felicia F. Serbana, North York, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Vasile & Melania Burcin.

Serbanescu, Julien Jesse, son of Stefan & Nicoleta Serbanescu, Thornhill, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Dragos & Madalina Ana.

Simon, Salina Russom, daughter of Russom M. Simon & Yohannes G. Eden, Regina, SK. St. George, Regina, SK. Godparents: Nuguse Ruta.

Smerea, Daniel, son of Nelu Smerea & Angele Soucy, Montreal, QC. Ascension, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Nelu & Gabriela Circa; Cristian & Reveca Moldoviceanu.

Smith, Nathan, son of Peter Smith & Ligia Popa, St. Lambert, QC. Annunciation, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Alexandru Popa & Tracy Dwyer.

Sorocaniuc, Isabella Genovieve, daughter of Ioan & Petal Sorocaniuc, Snellville, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Ghita M. Mihalescu.

Stan, Andreea, daughter of Marius E. & Adina M. Stan, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Ilias Macheridis.

Stefan, Andrew, son of Mihai & Gratia M. Stefan, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Catalin & Miruna

Stefan, Vanessa Mihaela, daughter of Catalin & Miruna V. Stefan, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Manuel & Mihaela Petrovici.

Stetca, Vlad Adrian, son of Adrian T. & Silvia Stetca,

Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Daniel & Daniela Zupu.

Stoica, Caterina Maria, daughter of Mihail R. Stoica & Alina O. Dulu, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Mircea & Ioana Badara.

Suciu, Gabriela Andrea, daughter of Daniel A. & Mariana C. Suciu, Richmond Hill, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON.

Godparents: Cristian Mates & Anca Mardan.

Talab, Patrick Darius, son of Kaven & Ilona C. Talab, Mississauga, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Mihail & Angela Ignat.

Tamasdan, Deandra Octavia Cristina, daughter of Mircea S. & Cristina Tamasdan, Norwalk, CT. St. Dumitru, New

York, NY. Godparents: Elena Schiopu.

Tar, Andrew Mason, son of Scott F. & Florina C. Tar, Redford, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul, Dearborn Heights, MI. Godparents: Mihaela I. Gavrila.

Tecsa, Anthony Stefan, son of Teodor L. & Cristina Tecsa, Richmond Hill, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Marcel & Daniela Vladutu.

Teodorescu, David, son of Ion M & Ana Maria Teodorescu, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Radu & Cristina Paunescu.

Thomas, Sara Adina, daughter of Russell C. & Adelina Thomas, Loganville, GA. Sts. Constantine & Helen, Lilburn, GA. Godparents: Claudiu & Rodica Gogan.

Thomson, Tristan Hyden, son of Alexander & Laura C. Thomson, Mississauga, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Dana P. Craig.

Ungureanu, Alexandru Nicolae, son of Florin & Floredana Ungureanu, Richmond Hill, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Bogdan Popescu & Alina Micu.

Van Clief, Kai Peter, son of Ronald & Simina Van Clief, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Nicolae & Floarea & Alina Garas.

Vasilas, Christiana Marie, daughter of Christofor Roemhild & Monica G. Vasilas, Lawrenceville, GA. Descent of the Holy Spirit, Elkins Park, PA. Godparents: Viorel & Elena Vasile.

Vasilianu, Anna Natalia, daughter of Mihai E. & Gabriela G. Vasilianu, Thornhill, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: George & Lia Magiricu.

Zeana-Schliep, Christian, son of Tjark C. Schliep & Cosmina B. Zeana, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Adina Dabija.

Zetu, Theodora Mia, daughter of Catalin Zetu & Adriana L. Mot, Toronto, ON. St. John, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Horia F. Gruia & Luiza C. Alexa.

MARRIAGES

Balan, Radu Victor and Manuela Buzoianu, W. Windsor, NJ. Descent of the Holy Spirit, Elkins Park, PA. Godparents: Cristian & Iuliana Ghiuvea.

Bajea, George Alexandru and Ioana Ruxandra Constantinescu, Montreal, QC. Annunciation, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Marian & Florentina Bibisi.

Borza, Bogdan and Dumitra Gabriela Tambalau, Montreal, QC. Annunciation, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Andrei Dumitru Cojocaru & Laura Borza.

Cambell, John and Cranguta Sanda Hancock, Brooklyn, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Nidal & Mihaela Nasr.

Cruceru, Dorin and Elena Radulescu, Romania. St. Dumitru,

BEARING FRUIT IN ROMANIA: A LETTER FROM OCMC MISSIONARY FLOYD FRANTZ

In a recent letter (July 26, 2006) to supporters, OCMC Missionary Floyd Frantz shared a story about his ministry bearing fruit in Romania. Floyd's ministry, the St. Dimitrie Program, focuses on counseling people with addictions and training others to counsel as well. Floyd serves in Romania with his wife, Ancuţa, who directs the Protection of the Theotokos Day Center, which works to prevent child abandonment. Below, Floyd shares how one person who was healed through the St. Dimitrie Program, in turn went on to help others.

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the St. Dimitrie Program, I hope that this finds you well and in good spirits today.

Well, it has been some days since my last newsletter, and I have some catching up to do. I'll start by announcing that a very nice person donated a new van for our program. We were driving one that was 20 years old, and it actually would not even start last winter. Well, now we have a better one, thanks be to God and to a good friend of our program.

Here is some exciting news. About four years ago, a Pentecostal minister came to our group to see what we were doing. He started sending people from his congregation to our treatment program, and some of them "stuck" for the treatment, and "kept coming back" to the 12 Step groups. Well, I am happy to announce that the first fellow from that church to get sober invited me to a new AA meeting at his church. It turned out that there were about 50 people there, most of them from the local groups that we have started. About 15 of them attend the Pentecostal church that this pastor was from. Of course, we were very happy, but I did not know that so many people were being sent from this one person. It was really a good experience.

One of my staff and I started to count the number of such groups that we have helped to start since November of 2000, when I first arrived in Romania. We counted ten such groups, and honestly, I was surprised. I was also joyous that not only have we helped some people to get into recovery but that they are "doing the deal" of sharing the message about recovery to other alcoholics and addicts. We had nothing to do with this new group starting, other than that the fellow who started it got sober in our program. It's the seed that is growing that we are seeing here, and for sure it is a blessing of God.

God Bless, and please do keep us in your prayers, we all need them.

In His Love,

One day at a time,

Floyd

We ask for your continued prayers for Floyd and Ancuta Frantz. Funds to help support the Frantz family can be sent to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center designated for "Frantz" in the memo line, to PO Box 4319, St Augustine, FL 32085-4319. If you would like to explore the possibility of serving as an OCMC Missionary, please call toll-free 1-877-463-6784 or write missionaries@ocmc.org.

Parish Register Cont. from page 13

New York, NY. Godparents: Cristian Radu & Ioana Mara. Gieni, Gordon Allen and Darlene Margaret Moffatt, Regina, SK. St. George Cathedral, Regina, SK. Godparents: Ryan Robert Gieni & Irene Tasha.

Laza, Mihai Radu and Juliana Ionita, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Mihai & Elena Sirbu.

Leroux, Maxime and Iulia Daliana Mutiu, St. Hubert, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Yanick Leroux & Melanie Pimentel.

Maftei Daniel and Monia Eniko Dumitriu, Mississauga, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: Mirel & Ramona Turmacu.

Pantruntas, Pavel Nelu and Cristinela Aureliana Costache, St. Laurent, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Sterie Craciun & Elena Abrudan.

Pateyuk, Andrew and Anca Raluca Munteanu, Verdum, QC. St. Nicholas, Montreal, QC. Godparents: Stefan & Rodica Socoteanu.

Purtuc, Sorin Mircea and Ying He, Philadelphia, PA. Descent of the Holy Spirit, Elkins Park, PA. Godparents: Marius & Cristina Viola.

Stanuta, Vasile and Eugenia Blum, Monsey, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Livio Dimitriu & Smaranda Uricariu.

Tarla, Nicolae and Monica E. Stefan, Toronto, ON. St. George, Toronto, ON. Godparents: George & Cabria Bogdan; Cristi & Mariana Zielinski.

Zimmerman, John David Alan and Roxana Mircea, Brooklyn, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Dan & Nicoleta Furtea.

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

Nenson, George, 86. St. George Cathedral, Regina, SK. Petre-Rusz, Mariana, 48. Sts. Michael & Gabriel, Orlando, FL.

Pomar, Trandafir, 57. Descent of the Holy Spirit, Elkins Park, PA.

Roscoe, John, 90. St. George Cathedral, Regina, SK. Turkus, Domnica Marie, 76. St. George Cathedral,

Southfield, MI.

Ungureanu, Vasile, 61. St. George, Toronto, ON.

Ursul, Mary Ethel, 89. Sts. Peter & Paul,

Dearborn Heights, MI.

Vinu, Aurora, 77. Sts. Michael & Gabriel, Middle Village, NY.

FINANCIAL REPORT

EDICCODATE CURRORTERS
EPISCOPATE SUPPORTERS
Maria Pincu, Santa Monica, CA\$1,000.00
Audrey Huston, Michigan Center, MI\$200.00
M/M Michael Glodich, Cleveland, OH\$100.00
M/M Valer Pufescu, Clinton Twp., MI\$100.00
Carrie Steski, Winnipeg, MB\$100.00
Paul & Silvia Costea, Dearborn Hts., MI
Maria Gheordunescu, Dearborn Hts., MI \$50.00
GENERAL DONATIONS
George & Audrey Fatsy, Trumbull, CT \$100.00
Florence & Bobby Westerfield, Warren, MI \$30.00
Fred & Patricia Klus, Wixom, MI\$25.00
, , ,, ,
MEMORIAM
Mary Rakolta, Bloomfield Hills, MI\$500.00
(IMO John Rakolta, Sr.)
Eugenia Poroch, St. Clair Shores, MI\$100.00
(IMO Husband Daniel)
Margareta Brad, Palantine, IL\$25.00
(IMO Dan Calin)
(INO Dan Cann)
EPISCOPATE ASSESSMENT (DUES)
St. Nicholas, Troy, MI
(2006)
(2000)
POST-CONGRESS DONATIONS
Presentation of Our Lord, Fairlawn, OH \$250.00
St. Elias, Ellwood City, PA
V. Rev. Fr. Panteleimon Stanciu, Canton, OH \$100.00
(In Honor of Family)
M/M Cornel Cotosman, Addison, IL\$50.00
V. Rev. Fr. Laurence & Psa. Anita Lazar,
Southfield, MI\$50.00
Southfield, WI
ARCHBISHOP'S CHARITY ENDOWMENT FUND
John Santeiu III, Garden City, MI\$100.00
(IMO John Lika)
(HVIO John Diku)
CAMP VATRA FOR JUNIORS
CLOSING BANQUET DONATIONS
Tiberius & Tami Kisereu, St. Charles, IL \$100.00
Mihai Sandor Family, Glenview, IL
Anonymous \$60.00
Gary & Cindy Danis, Plymouth, MI
Hildreth Family, Burton, MI\$50.00
Kuharik Family, Medina, OH
Ioana Litra, Grand Rapids, MI
Kathleen Kalugar & Family, Lake Orion, MI \$40.00
Dave & Sue Maxim, Shelby Twp., MI
Nick & Marie Avramaut, Middleburg Hts., MI \$25.00
Archdeacon David Oancea, Grass Lake, MI \$25.00
Elena & Paun Krncian, Waterloo, ON
Elena & Pauli Kritcian, Waterioo, ON
Andrei Podariu, Chicago, IL
Rev. Fr. & Psa. Bill Clark, Prescott, AZ\$20.00
Alex Ionescu, Warren, MI
Ernest Ionescu, Lansing, MI
Mark Kalugar, Madison Hts., MI
M/M Michael Kalugar, Sr., Madison Hts., MI \$20.00
Mark Marlowa Akron OH \$15.00

Mark Marlowe, Akron, OH \$15.00

Geta Balasa, Lansing, MI\$10.00

2006 CONGRESS BANQUET DONATIONS

\$150.00

St. Philothea, Hagerstown, MD

\$125.00

Rev. Fr. & Psa. Catalin Mitescu, Claremont, CA

\$100.00

Dr. Eleanor Bujea, Regina, SK; Rev. Dn. Dr. John Bujea, Regina, SK; Descent of the Holy Spirit, Elkins Park, PA; Olivia Dickerman, Ypsilanti, MI; Marsha Klein, Hermitage, PA; Rev. Fr. & Psa. Onisie Morar, Woonsocket, RI; Aurelian Nicolaescu, St. Augustine, FL; M/M Viorel Nikodin, Farmington Hills, MI; Rev. Fr. & Psa. Ian Pac-Urar, Fairlawn, OH; Rev. Fr. & Psa. Dumitru Paun, Colleyville, TX; Narcis & Violeta Stoica, Buena Park, CA; Vasile Timis / Sanda Vlad, Manassas, VA; Augustine Vincent, Farmington Hills, MI

\$87.00

Rev. Fr. & Psa. Michael Lupu, Calgary, AB

\$80.00

Anonymous

Ion & Margareta Petrovici, Middle Village, NY

\$50.00

Ion Anton, Los Angeles, CA; Rev. Fr. Dimitrie Musta, Ridgewood, NY; Rev. Fr. Vasile Barsan, Pittsburgh, PA; George Cantor, Cleveland, OH; Emil & Elena Chiaburu, Kentwood, MI; Rev. Fr. & Psa. Leonta Copacia Jr., Shelwby Twp., MI; Rev. Fr. Adrian Fetea, Merrillville, IN; V. Rev. Fr. Casian Fetea, Astoria, NY; Rev. Fr. & Psa. Anton Frunza, Byron Center, MI; Grosu Family, Sebring, FL; V. Rev. Fr. Theophan Koja, St. Louis, MO; George Lulelaru, Laval, QC; Ronald Muresan, Bloomfield Hills, MI; Carol Murrin, Hermitage, PA; M/M Moise Nikolic, Hollywood, FL; M/M Valer Pufescu, Clinton Twp., MI; Rev. Fr. & Psa. Eugen Rosu, Warren, MI; Silvius Sfera, Hollywood, FL; Stefan Teodoru, Westville, IN; V. Rev. Fr. Constantin Tofan, Denver, CO; Rev. Dn. & Psa. Michael Ungrin, Winnipeg, MB; Rev. Fr. & Psa. George Ursache, Chicago, IL Mary Ann Moga-Zarb, Bloomfield, MI

\$43.50

Avram Srbu, Kitchener, ON; Dumitru, Stan, Burlington ON

\$40.00

Emil Dimancea, Livonia, MI; Cornelia & Lucian Guzar, Livonia, MI; M/M Florin Gioiculeasa, Dearborn Hts., MI; Psa. Hildegard Grabowski, Warren, OH; Rev. Fr. & Psa. Romey Rosco, Dearborn Hts., MI

\$30.00

George & Dorothy Aldea, Royal Oak, MI; Rev. Fr. & Psa. Cosmin Antonescu, Youngstown, OH; Poenaru Family, Dearborn Hts., MI; V. Rev. Fr. Dumitru Sasu, Miramar, FL; Voican Tudor, Laval, QC

\$25.00

Rev. Fr. George Carstea, Troy, MI; Ielita Daba, Oak Park, MI; Lisa Gallu, Shelby Twp., MI; Louise Gibb, Brookfield, OH; Stephen Grabowski, Fairlawn, OH; George & Elizabeth Oancea, Louisville, OH; Michael Preda, Wichita Falls, TX; Adela Price, New Castle, PA; Constantin & Silvia Roman, Livonia, MI; John & Mariana Tipa, South Lyon, MI; Tudor Murgoci, Kitchener, ON

Standing Conference Cont. from page 15

4. A call for the international community to give immediate humanitarian assistance to those who are suffering, and to help hundreds of thousands of displaced Lebanese citizens to return to their cities, villages, and homes.

5. A call for the international community to help Lebanon rebuild the infrastructure that has been de-

stroyed by Israeli aggression.

6. A call for the UN to investigate the massacre at Oana which took place on Sunday July 30, 2006.

7. Support for the statement which was issued by the religious leaders of Lebanon who met in Pkerki -August 1, 2006.

8. A call for the implementation of all UN resolutions that address occupied territories in Lebanon and the

9. A statement deploring the killing of any human being, and reiterating that all killing is against our

religious beliefs.

The assembled religious leaders also focused on fundraising appeals that have been made by every denomination to their faithful. It is hoped that this fundraising will result in generous support which will be sent directly to ease some measure of suffering for the people of Lebanon.

A reporter and photographer from the New Jersey press corps were also present to conduct interviews and take photographs of the assembly. An interview was conducted with Metropolitan Philip, and with His Excellency Tarek Mitri, Lebanese Minister of Culture and acting Foreign Minister. They both stressed the urgent need for an immediate cease fire, the exchange of prisoners between Israel and Lebanon, and the Israeli withdrawal from occupied Lebanese lands.

Published by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, August 4, 2006.

CORA

ANNUAL MEETING

2006 Annual Meeting of the Congress of Romanian Americans

Embassy Suites Hotel, Vienna, Virginia October 26-28, 2006

Thursday: Tours of Washington, DC - Capitol, White House, Department of State, etc. Reservations by September 26.

Friday & Saturday: Meeting Schedule to be announced.

Contact: Email - Romanians@aol.com; Phone -(703) 356-2280; Website – Romanian americans. org.

HIERARCHAL SCHEDULE

June 18. Rives Junction, MI. Dormition Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

June 19. Grass Lake, MI. ROEA Chancery. Joint

Dialogue Committee Meeting.

June 25. Rives Junction, MI. Dormition Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

June 29 - July 2. Grass Lake, MI. Vatra Romaneasca. Annual Episcopate Congress.

July 9. Rives Junction, MI. Dormition Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

July 16. Rives Junction, MI. Dormition Monas-

tery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

July 17. Detroit, MI. Ascension Monastery. Meetings of Holy Ascension Monastery, St. Raphael Church and Center for Orthodox Christian Studies.

July 18-20. Washington, DC. Arlington Cemetery. Wednesday: Funeral Services and Interment of Colonel George Codrea.

July 22. Vatra Romaneasca. Divine Liturgy and Closing of Camp Vatra for Seniors.

July 23. Rives Junction, MI. Dormition Monastery. Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

Financial Report Cont. from page 15

\$20.00

Andrei Opris, Baton Rouge, LA; Rev. Dn. Ioan & Psa. Diana Bogdan, Olmsted Falls, OH; Rev. Fr. Adrian Balescu, Jacksonville, FL; Ioan Braescu, Redford, MI; M/M Robert Charlier, St. Clair Shores, MI; Hildreth Family, Burton, MI; Vasile Ionce, Baton Rouge, LA; Nicolina & Eremie Klein, Cleveland, OH; Maria & Ionel Lenga, Garden City, MI; Morgos Family, Dearborn Hts., MI; Rev. Dn. Nicolae & Ioana Neagoe, Cleveland, OH; Alexandru Nemeti, Baton Rouge, LA; V. Rev. Fr. Dan Nenson, Regina, SK; Veturia Nicula, Livonia, MI; Ovidiu & Adela Pacurar, Miramar, FL; George Paler, Melvindale, MI; David Pascu, Fairlawn, OH; Mary Sankey, New Castle, PA; Radu & Dorel Nicoara George Shola, Webster Grove, MO; Rev. Fr. Cosmin Sicoe. Regina, SK; Victor Szegfu, Baton Rouge, LA; Ed Teisanu, St. Paul, MN; Aurica Tipa, Redford, MI; Elena Ulita, Ypsilanti, MI; Mircea & Anca Vasiu, Dearborn, MI

\$17,40

Rev. Fr. Cezar Vasiliu, Montreal, QC

\$15.00

Dan & Alina Chivu, Westland, MI; Ionel Satnoianu, Lakewood, OH

\$10.00

Cornel Cajvaneanu, Baton Rouge, LA; Anonymous; Vita & Maria Elock, Royal Oak, MI; Richard Grabowski, Warren, OH; Anna Jonascu, Westland, MI; Anca Lazar, St. Clair Shores, MI; Maria Sekedat, Detroit, MI; Mike Strugar, Milan, MI; Marius Tudorica, London, ON; Rev. Dn. W. Paul & Lenora Wright, Uniontown, OH

\$5.00

Anonymous

My Experience as a Priest and Psychologist at an Orthodox Maternity Home

By Fr. George Morelli

My introduction to Martha and Mary Home occurred at our Antiochian Parish Life Conference three years ago. I saw a booth with pictures and brochures describing the work of the Home. Much to my surprise, the Home was located just a few miles from my residence. Was the Holy Spirit telling me something?

What would be the role of a priest-psychologist at a Maternity Home? There is no job description. This is uncharted water. After meeting with the House Mother, Sarah Elisabet Oftedal several times, the needs emerged. As a priest, I would offer prayer, services, catechetics and spiritual counseling — the work of a Chaplain. But the daughters (the term given to the women living in the home) have adjustment, behavioral and emotional problems. They need to clarify their values, decide on life goals and parenting options including marriage, fatherless single parenting or adoption. It looked like I would also be a counselor.

The House Mother belongs to the local Orthodox Church in America (OCA) parish St. John of Damascus, in Poway, California. This is also the parish to which she invites the daughters to attend. Martha and Mary Home is an official ministry of the Western Diocese of the OCA and operates as a religious, non-profit corporation under the obedience of the OCA Western Diocese Bishop. Prayer, services, catechetics, and even the regular presence of an Orthodox priest would be a way of making Christ present in a strong way.

I visit once a week and we start with Sixth Hour Prayer [Horologion] which includes the Epistle and Gospel of the Day and a short sermon. This is followed by any number of undertakings. One might be the religious instruction for any of the daughters in religious study. Another would be personal counseling dealing with values clarification, problems of adjustment, life goals, social skills or emotional issues. A major aspect of my work is consultation with the House Mother. She has intimate knowledge of many of the feelings and conflicts the daughters are experiencing. She presents them to me in a case study format. We discuss possible strategies and solutions in problem resolution.

One common psychological factor I have observed among the daughters is "oppositional orientation." (*See below). Basically, it involves validating the daughters initial choices by sincerely listening to everything they have to say.

This at times is quite difficult. Some of the choices the daughters say they want to make are totally unrealistic. This is the time however, to allow the daughters full expression of their ideas. Patience on the part of the clinician and the House Mother is essential. Once they feel safe and are assured we listen and understand them, the daughters are ready to consider alternatives and their consequences.

The two responses I have found most helpful are:

1) "It is your decision, not mine;" and 2) "I know you love your unborn baby and want the best for him ... I know you would want to make your decision on what is best for the baby." All aspects have to be discussed, such as reasons for having and keeping the baby, etc. Whenever an afterbirth plan is brought up, the specifics of how it can be accomplished is discussed. We ask, "What would a good mother do? and "What do you want to do?" and discuss the answers. We pray that the daughters be granted the "wisdom of Solomon"; that she makes the decision that in all cases benefits the child.

For most of the daughters who come to Martha and Mary Home, the best answer is adoption into a good Orthodox Christian home that provides for the spiritual, psychological and physical needs of the child. Once the daughter comes to see this for herself, it is affirmed that this is the most loving and caring decision she can make for your child. This decision is most effective when the daughter discovers this for herself, by going over the principles listed above.

One criticism of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches that are "pro-life" is we preach life and then abandon the pregnant girls and woman to fend for themselves. We say how sinful abortion is and then do nothing. This is wrong. As Christians, we have the obligation to care for our brothers and sisters from conception to death. Consider Our Lord's words:

Then the King will say to those at his right hand, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:34-40).

CUVÂNT DE SUFLET

"Întru adormire, lumea nu ai părăsit..."



Prăznuirea Adormirii Maicii Domnului ne oferă fiecăruia binecuvântatul prilej de a ne întreba ce reprezintă cu adevărat Maica Domnului pentru noi, care ne este măsura recunoştinței față de mijlocirile sale şi bineînțeles, care este particularitatea acestui praznic marian.

E foarte greu să cuprinzi în cuvinte taina celei mai binecuvântate femei, a celei care prin curăția vieții sale, prin credința și dragostea sa față de Dumnezeu sa învrednicit să fie "vas ales" și "pântece binecuvântat" pentru venirea în lume a Fiul lui Dumnezeu. Dacă Sf. Apostol Pavel a ajuns să vorbească despre o "plinire a vremii" (Gal. 4,4) cu referire la momentul întrupării Domnului, aceasta este așa și datorită existenței Fecioarei Maria, care ca și culme a sfințeniei întregului neam omenesc a putut oferi lui Dumnezeu și arhanghelului Gavriil acel: "Fie mie după cuvântul tău!" (Le. 1, 38).

Adormirea Maicii Domnului ne duce cu gândul la evenimentul ca atare al trecerii Maicii Domnului la cele veșnice, la slujba de prohodire a ei și la lacrimile Sfinților Apostoli, pe care trebuie să le fi vărsat în acele momente de încercare. După cum se știe, mormântul Maicii Domnului se află la poalele Muntelui Măslinilor sau Eleon, oarecum în continuarea grădinii Ghetsimani, locul unde și Domnul în momente de

încercare a plâns "cu lacrimi de sânge", după cum dă mărturie Sfânta Scriptură. Iată, așadar, locuri în care s-a plâns şi în care se plânge până astăzi din mai multe motive şi neînțelegeri umane. Pentru noi însă, ca și creștini, lacrimile la care făceam referire nu sunt lacrimi de deznădejde, lacrimi de disperare, ci doar manifestări sensibile ale firii umane. În acest caz, praznicul Adormirii Maicii Domnului este pentru noi un praznic de bucurie şi de încredere că Fecioara Maria este de acum solitoare înaintea lui Dumnezeu ca și mamă pentru întreaga umanitate.

Maica Domnului a atins ca om gradul cel mai înalt de sfințenie pe care-l putea vreodată realiza cineva, de aceea e și considerată de către Părinții Bisericii "martorul principal al întrupării," "icoană a Bisericii" și "culme a sfințeniei create". Învățătura autentică despre Maica Domnului a fost pecetluită pentru totdeauna de conștiința universală a Bisericii la Sinodul al III-lea de la Efes (431) și reiterată în hotărârile dogmatice ale Sinodului al IV-lea de la Calcedon (451). Esența acesteia constând în recunoașterea Fecioarei Maria ca Născătoare de Dumnezeu. Şi este așa, deoarece Persoana Celui Care S-a născut cu trupul din Maica Domnului este Logosul divin însuși, a doua Persoană a Sfintei Treimi. Înțelegem astfel centralitatea

Cont. la pag. 20

VIZITA PREA SFINŢITULUI EPISCOP VICAR Irineu în Parohia "Buna Vestire" din GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN



Într-una din zilele petrecute la tabăra de copii de la Vatra, discutănd împreună cu Prea Sfințitul Episcop Irineu despre arhitectura bisericească, Prea Sfințitul a menționat că biserica "Buna Vestire" din Grand Rapids apare ca o clădire frumoasă ce se încadrează în tipicul arhitectonic bisericesc ortodox. Rugat să constate acest lucru la fața locului, Prea Sfințitul a acceptat invitația, sub rezerva binecuvântării Înalt Prea Sfințitului Arhiepiscop Nathaniel. Înalt Prea Sfințitul Arhiepiscop a dat binecuvântarea ca Prea Sfințitul Episcop Vicar Irineu să efectueze o vizită pastorală în Grand Rapids și a aprobat ca și copiii participanți la tabăra de educație religioasă să fie parte din această vizită. În câteva zile, membrii Parohiei "Buna Vestire", sub îndrumarea Președintelui Consiliului, Dl. Sorin Gavriliuc și cu ajutorul Dlui. Constantin Prisecaru au pregătit toate cele de cuviință pentru acest ales eveniment în viața parohiei. În ziua de duminică, 16 iulie, într-o atmosferă de Înaltă sărbătoare, Prea Sfințitul Episcop Irineu a fost întâmpinat de urarea de bun venit a Președintelui Consiliului Parohial, Dl. Sorin Gavriliuc care l-a rugat pe înaltul ierarh să binecuvinteze pâinea și sarea. Reprezentanta Reuniunii Doamnelor, Dna. Elena Chiaburu (Președinta Reuniunii, Dna Elena Prisecaru fiind responsabilă cu bucătăria la tabăra de la Vatra) a oferit apoi un buchet de flori vlădicului, iar copiii din Parohie, îmbrăcați în costume populare românești au fost binecuvântați de Prea Sfințitul Episcop, căruia i-au oferit flori albe, semn al nevinovăției și curăției lor spirituale.

Imnul arhieresc interpretat de către copiii de la tabăra de la Vatra a însoțit pe Prea Sfințitul în biserică. Sfânta liturghie arhierească a fost celebrată de către Prea Sfintitul Episcop Irineu, asistat de către Părintele Paroh Anton Frunză și de către Prea Cuviosul Părinte Ierodiacon Sebastian Dumitrașcu. La sfârșitul slujbei, Părintele Anton Frunză a mulțumit înaltului Ierarh pentru vizită și a amintit că în urmă cu patru ani, Prea Sfințitul Episcop Irineu, pe atunci starețul Mânăstirii "Înălțarea Domnului" din Detroit a fost prezent la slujba de punere a pietrei de temelie, făcând cu acel prilej și o frumoasă donație Parohiei. În cuvântul de învățătură pe care 1-a rostit Prea Sfințitul Episcop Cont. la pag. 20

Vizita Prea Sfințitului ...

Cont. de la pag. 19

Irineu a menţionat că aduce binecuvântările Înalt Prea Sfinţitului Arhiepiscop Nathaniel şi că Biserica "Buna Vestire" din Grand Rapids este cu adevărat pregătită ca o mireasă a lui Hristos şi a îndemnat credincioşii să fie şi ei pregătiţi spiritual ca membri ai Trupului Tainic a lui Hristos, Biserica. Binecuvântând şi copiii de la tabăra de vară de la Vatra Românească, Prea Sfinţitul a subliniat rolul şi importanţa educaţiei religioase pentru copii.

A urmat apoi o agapă creştinească la care au participat toți cei prezenți, Prea Sfințitul discutând cu membrii Parohiei. La final, Prea Sfințitul a binecuvântat munca preotului și credincioșilor din Grand Rapids oferind și o frumoasă donație personală ca semn de prețuire și apreciere. Apoi, pe acordurile imnului arhieresc, vlădicul a pornit spre Vatra Românească, fiind urmat la scurt timp și de către Părintele Anton Frunză împreună cu copiii de la tabără. În urmă, a rămas frumoasa familie a credincioșilor din Grand Rapids pregătind Biserica lui Hristos ca pe o mireasă.

Pr. Anton Frunză

Cuvânt de Suflet

Cont. de la pag. 18

rolului ei în iconomia mântuirii, ca şi în cultul Bisericii Ortodoxe, mai ales în Sfânta Liturghie. Din acest motiv, unii teologi au ajuns să vorbească despre un aspect marian al Liturghiei şi, în general, al întregului cult ortodox.

Ortodoxia nu poate fi definită astfel doar ca viaţă în Hristos, ci în mod mult mai autentic putem spune că este viaţă în Hristos, în comuniune cu Maica Domnului. Din nefericire există şi chiar au fost semnalate anumite tendinţe de proliferare a curentelor neoprotestante, care o necinstesc pe Maica Domnului. Sigur că libertatea îi conferă oricui dreptul de a spune şi de a crede orice vrea, noi însă, ca moştenitori şi păstrători ai Tradiţiei Bisericii Ortodoxe avem datoria de a-i comunica mesajul şi de a-i descoperi profunzimile chiar şi aici, sau mai ales aici, în Lumea Nouă.

Nu putem înțelege Ortodoxia fără a înțelege poziția pe care o ocupă Maica Domnului în spiritualitatea răsăriteană, ori parte a acestei înțelegeri este și praznicul Adormirii sale. Ce prăznuim așadar prin acesta? Sălășluirea trupului ei în țărâna Eleonului? în chip văzut am putea spune că da, însă profunzimea praznicului e dată de prăznuirea înălțării sale la cer! Faptul că niciodată nu s-a auzit despre venerarea osemintelor Maicii Domnului și având în vedere glasuri nenumărate ale Sfinților Părinți, care vorbesc de prăznuirea înălțării și nu a adormirii Maicii Domnului, ne determină să credem că o astfel de înălțare s-a și petrecut. Printre cei mai fervenți susținători ai acestei învățături se numără și Sf. Ioan Damaschin, cel care

a sistematizat întreaga învățătură de credință a celor opt veacuri de existență de până la el a Bisericii. Dintre teologii sec. XX apărători ai acestei învățături îi amintesc pe Pr. George Florovsky și pe Vladimir Lossky, care considerau cu tărie că învierea cu trupul a Maicii Domnului este o dogmă revelată.

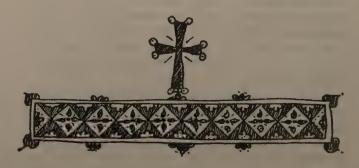
Întâlnită destul de des în cugetarea patristică, paralela dintre Eva şi Maica Domnului, numită şi "Noua Evă", ne reține atenția prin bogăția de sensuri pilduitoare şi de aspecte pozitive sesizate în comportamentul Maicii Domnului, în contrast cu cel al Evei. Cred că o scurtă referire la un text al Sf. Irineu de Lyon ar putea fi grăitoare în acest sens: "Maria este Fecioara ascultătoare ... Eva, încă fecioară, a devenit nesupusă. Ea a fost pentru ea şi pentru tot neamul omenesc începutul morții. Fecioara Maria, ascultătoare, a devenit pentru ea şi pentru tot neamul omenesc începutul mântuirii... Şi astfel, nesupunerea Evei a fost ștearsă prin ascultarea Mariei: pentru că ceea ce fecioara Eva a legat prin lipsa de credință, Maria a dezlegat prin credință..." (Adversus haereses III, 92).

Să ne rugăm neîncetat și să cerem mijlocirea celei ce a adormit și s-a înălţat cu trupul la cer, a Prea Sfintei Născătoare de Dumnezeu, convinși fiind că ea este adevărata solitoare a mântuirii noastre înaintea tronului Dumnezeirii. S-a spus de către unii că nu ar trebui să ne rugăm "Prea Sfântă Născătoare de Dumnezeu mântuieşte-ne pe noi," pentru că Maica Domnului nu ne poate mântui și că mai corect ar fi să spunem "Prea Sfântă Născătoare de Dumnezeu miluieşte-ne pe noi."

Referindu-mă în încheiere la Părintele Ilie Cleopa, voi spune ceea ce el însuşi repeta adesea, că "Prea Sfântă Născătoare de Dumnezeu mântuieşte-ne pe noi", înseamnă "înduplecă-L pe Fiul tău să ne mântuiască!" La fel şi Părintele Dumitru Stăniloae considera că verbul a mântui trebuie folosit în acest caz şi nu a milui, în conformitate de altfel şi cu textul grecesc originar al liturghiei bizantine, care foloseşte verbul a mântui.

Asemenea scării patriarhului Iacov, care "se sprijinea pe pământ, însă vârful ei atingea cerul" (Fac. 28, 10-17), imagine simbolică a chipului Maicii Domnului în Vechiul Testament, să ne încredințăm Născătoarei de Dumnezeu și noi, cei care pe pământ fiind, dorim "să atingem cerul."

+IRINEU, Episcop Vicar



Să Ne Aducem Aminte de Binefăcătorii Noștri: MITROPOLITUL DR. NICOLAE MLADIN, MARE CĂRTURAR, MARE IERARH ÎN CARE A BĂTUT O INIMĂ DE MOŢ

Tot un Mitropolit spunea: "recunoştinţa este floare rară"; și de fapt așa spune și vorba românească. Întradevăr este o floare rară deoarece nu oricine o are, să o poarte în sufletul său și să o ofere celor care merită. În lumea aceasta este ceva deosebit, să poti să fii recunoscător în primul rând lui Dumnezeu, căruia îi datorăm totul, și apoi acelora care au contribuit la pregătirea noastră, la formarea noastră, la promovarea noastră.

Cu aceste câteva gânduri de recunoștință și aducere aminte, doresc să scriu aceste rânduri care să ne amintească nouă, celor care 1-am cunoscut, iubit și apreciat pe Mitropolitul de pioasă amintire Nicolae Mladin, de la a cărui mutare la cele veșnice s-au

împlinit anul acesta 20 de ani.

Născut în tara moților, la Abrud în 18 decembrie 1914, din părinții Gheorghe și Letiția Mladin, aproape de satul în care s-a născut și Înalt Prea Sfințitul Arhiepiscop Valerian, și din același județ (Alba), cu Prea Sfintitul Policarp Morușca, primul nostru Episcop român aici în America. Încă din copilărie, familia sa se mută pe Valea Jiului, unde tatăl său Gheorghe Mladin a muncit în mină. Rămâne de timpuriu orfan de tată, în grija mamei Letiția, femeie cu o viață religioasă și credință rară. Datorită credinței și rugăciunilor ei de Mamă, Dumnezeu mai târziu a ajutat-o să-și vadă fiul Mitropolit al Ardealului.

A cunoscut viața grea și sărăcia vremurilor de atunci, și poate datorită acestor încercări, tănărul Nicolae Mladin se străduiește să ajungă pe cele mai înalte culmi ale culturii și pregătirii sale teologice. A fost înzestrat cu o minte ageră și luminată, fiind premiant în pregătirea sa academica. Timp de 25 de ani activează ca profesor la Catedra de Teologie Morală din cadrul Facultății Andrei Şaguna din Sibiu, perioadă în care studiază în Germania și Viena, vorbind cursiv limbile germană și franceză. Întră ca viețuitor la Mănăstirea Brâncoveanu de la Sâmbăta de Sus, la îndemnul Mitropolitului de vrednică pomenire Nicolae Bălan, care a redeschis această mănăstire, în 1939, astfel făcând parte dintrei cei trei viețuitori cu care s-a reînviat viata monahală la Sâmbăta: Părintele Arsenie Boca, Părintele Serafim Popescu și Mitropolitul de mai târziu Nicolae Mladin.

A fost un mare cărturar și un mare orator, încă și astăzi în țara Făgărașului cei mai vârstnici își aduc aminte de predicile Mitropolitului Mladin cu ocazia Hramului Sf. Marii și a Îzvorului Tămăduirii de la Sâmbăta. Avea o evlavie deosebită la Maica Domnului de care vorbea extraordinar de frumos, scriind și o



broşură intitulată "Bucură-te Mireasă, Pururea Fecioară". A rămas ca un mare cărturar în viața Bisericii, scriind mai multe cărți care rămân în amintirea Mitropolitului și spre folosul tuturor teologilor și nu numai. Datorită vremurilor grele și de sărăcie prin care a trecut în vremea copilăriei, avea întotdeauna o sensibilitate și o milă față de cei săraci și oropsiți, fiind foarte milos și milostiv, dându-și până la ultimul ban si făcând multe fapte de milostenie pe care numai Dumnezeu le stie.

A functionat ca Mitropolit al Ardealului între anii 1967-1981, în vremuri grele pentru România și pentru Biserică în general, apărând Biserica și pe preoții ei

atât cât a putut și cât i-a ajutat Dumnezeu.

La numai 64 de ani o boală necruțătoare l-a lovit, fiind nevoit să se retragă din scaunul de Mitropolit la chinovia sa, Mănăstirea Brâncoveanu unde a făgăduit lui Dumnezeu să rămână până la ultima suflare. Pe vremea aceea, cel ce semnează acest articol, era frate de mănăstire, fiindu-mi rânduită binecuvântata ascultare de a avea grijă de Mitropolitul Nicolae, care nu a fost o ascultare deloc ușoară, dar așa cum mă încuraja și întărea duhovnicul meu de atunci, părintele Serafim Popescu, Dumnezeu să-l odihnească: "părinte Irineu, să ai grijă de înaltul Nicolae ca de Domnul Hristos. consideră că este Domnul Hristos și așa împlinești porunca". Dumnezeu m-a ajutat să-i fiu alături chiar Cont. la pag. 22

Să Nu Aducem Aminte ...

Cont. de la pag. 21

atunci când toţi l-au părăsit şi uitat. Timp de şase ani am fost zi şi noapte alături de marele Mitropolit, am avut bucurii şi necazuri, am încercat din toate puterile mele sa-i fiu samarineanul cel milostiv şi să-i leg rănile. Îi rămăsese numai bunătatea, veselia, nevinovăția, deseori oftatul, dar niciodată nu a cărtit împotriva voinței lui Dumnezeu. Spunea mereu cuvintele dreptului Iov: "Domnul a dat Domnul a luat, fie numele Domnului binecuvântat". Nu pot uita vreodată pe cel care a semnat binecuvântarea şi recomandarea înscrierii mele la Seminarul Teologic din Cluj, dacă astăzi sunt ceea ce sunt, îi datorez în mare măsură înaltului Mitropolit Nicolae Mladin.

A plecat la Domnul în data de 1 iunie 1986, în chilia lui de la Stăreţia veche, la vremea vecerniei, îi eram alături împreună cu D-l farmacist din Oraşul Victoria, Constantin Melenciuc, care ne vizita mereu şi cu părintele Ierodiacon Calinic Morar. S-a stis ca o lumină care ne va lumina şi de dincolo din veşnicie. La slujba de înmormântare, printre vorbitori a fost şi Prea Sfinţitul Episcop Iustinian Chira de la Baia Mare, care a zis printre altele, evocând personalitatea Înalt Prea Sfinţitului, "Luceafărul după ce a intrat în eclipsă, cu atât străluceşte şi luminează mai mult, şi tot Luceafăr rămâne".

Sunt convins că după toată încercarea şi suferința pe care a avut-o în ultimii ani ai vieții, Dumnezeu a vrut să-l curețe de orice greșeală făcută ca om şi să-l așeze în latura drepților. Exact la şapte ani după înmormântare, 1 iunie 1994, pe vremea când eram Stareț al mănăstirii, am deshumat rămăşițele pământeşti din cimitirul mănăstirii şi le-am așezat în cripta nou pregătită unde-și dorm somnul de veci marii Mitropoliți ai Ardealului. Spre uimirea tuturor, osemintele Mitropolitului erau galbene ca ceara și bine mirositoare, semn al mântuirii lui.

Aici, departe de țară, nu am uitat și nu voi uita vreodată pe cel de care m-am legat sufletește și pe care l-am prețuit foarte mult. La toate Sfintele Liturghii pe care le săvârșesc pe continentul Nord American, numele înaltului Nicolae este pomenit cu voce tare alături de I.P.S. Valerian și P.S. Policarp. Trei falnici moți, care au făcut cinste Bisericii și neamului românesc.

Anul acesta, când s-au împlinit 20 de ani de la plecare din lumea aceasta, noi, fiii lui duhovniceşti nu l-am uitat, şi cu recunoştintă şi iubire, rugăm pe Părintele Luminilor să odihnească în pace sufletul marelui Mitropolit al Ardealului Nicolae Mladin, care şi-a făcut datoria deplin, îmbinând în mod fericit altarul, amvonul, catedra şi condeiul.

Veşnică să-i fie pomenirea, și amintirea binecuvântată!

+ IRINEU
Episcop Vicar al Episcopiei Ortodoxe
Române din America

My Experience ...

Cont. from page 17

If we think abortion is not a problem in our parishes, then we are mistaken. If we think that we can preach that abortion is wrong but not care for those who are pregnant, we are wrong. And if we want to value the life these girls and women have inside them — truly, these little ones are made in God's image and are the fruit of His creation — and not care for them, we are truly wrong. No wonder so many in the world call us hypocrites. This ministry is needed in every community in the world. It is by Divine Command. Glory to God in all things.

Notes

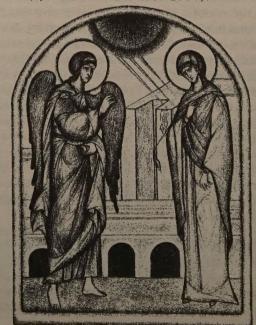
* As a caveat, this (oppositional orientation) is an hypothesis. I cannot make scientific conclusions based on a small biased sample. I am also not using the diagnostic category "oppositional disorder" here. However, my approach to the problem has been similar to the treatment of oppositional disorder, and I believe House Mother Sarah would be in agreement.

V. Rev. Fr. George Morelli Ph.D. is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Marriage and Family Therapist, Coordinator of the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Counseling Ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, (www.antiochian.org/counseling-ministries) and Religion Coordinator (and Antiochian Archdiocesan Liaison) of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion. Fr. George is Assistant Pastor of St. George's Antiochian Orthodox Church, San Diego, California.

Further Reading

Loving and Serving God in our Neighbor: The Genesis of An Orthodox Christian Maternity Home by Sarah Elisabet Oftedal.

Published by OrthodoxyToday.org, August 6, 2006 (Originally published November 2004).



EDUCAREA CRESTINĂ A FAMILIEI

Cuvioasa Macrina, sora Sfântului Vasile cel Mare

Macrina s-a născut dintro familie de dreptcredincioși creștini, în anul 328 ori 329 fiind cea mai mare din cei 10 copii. Dintre ei. 5 s-au deosebit prin evlavia lor: Cuvioasa Macrina. Sfântul Vasile cel Mare, Navcratie care a fost călugăr, Sfântul Grigorie de Nyssa si Petru care a fost episcop al Sevastiei. Bunicii din partea tatălui Vasile, din cauză că nu au vrut să jertfească zeilor "...suferiseră mai mult de 7 ani, trăind prigoniți prin pădurile umbroase ale muntilor Pontului" (Stelianos Papadopoulos, Viata Sfântului Vasile cel Mare). Bunica Macrina a fost cea care s-a ocupat de educația religioasă a primilor doi copii, Macrina și Vasile, prin povestirile și prin exemplul ei insuflându-le

adevărata şi curata dragoste pentru Dumnezeu. Vorbindu-le din adâncul sufletului, copiii simțeau sinceritatea şi adevărul spuselor ei şi sufletele lor fragede se modelau după acest suflet de adevărat creştin. Când Macrina cea bătrână nu se va mai putea ocupa de ceilalți nepoți, Macrina şi Vasile vor transmite fraților mai mici cele învățate de la bunica lor. Bunicii din partea mamei Emilia fuseseră, de asemenea, dreptcredincioşi, bunicul al cărui nume nu îl ştim, a murit ca martir.

Când Macrina era mică, maica ei "...se sârguia să o învețe cuvintele Sfintei Scripturi cele de Dumnezeu insuflate și cele ce sunt potrivite pentru vârsta copiilor, dar mai ales înțelepciunea lui Solomon, și altele câte ajută la obiceiurile cele bune ale vieții. Încă și cuvintele Psaltirii erau învațătura Macrinei pe care le zicea la timp potrivit, adică atunci când se scula din somn, când începea vreun lucru, când îl isprăvea, când mânca și când se scula de la masă și când se culca. Si totdeauna psalmii lui David îi avea în gură ca pe o bună însotire"

(Grigorie de Nyssa, Viețile Sfinților pe Iulie). La 12 ani, Macrina a fost logodită de către tatăl ei cu un tânăr cu caracter bun, dar tânărul murind, Macrina a hotărât să nu se căsătorească niciodată. Ea a ajutato pe maica sa să-și crească frații mai mici, ocupându-



se nu doar de cele necesare materiale, ci mai ales de viata lor spirituală. Cel mai mult s-a ocupat de fratele mai mic Petru, tatăl familiei murind imediat dupa nasterea pruncului. Macrina s-a călugărit, iar maica sa după ce și-a căsătorit fetele a urmat exemplul Macrinei călugărindu-se și dânsa. Iată ce scrie Sfântul Grigorie de Nyssa: "Fratele nostru Petru...căutând și la sora noastră Macrina, ca la o pildă a lucrului celui bun, atât a sporit în fapta bună, încât nu era mai prejos de Marele Vasile. Şi de vreme ce atunci s-a întâmplat o foamete mare, multi auzind de facerile de bine care le săvârșeau acești trei -Macrina, maica și fratele nostru Petru -, alergau la locul unde se nevoiau ei;

iar Petru, prin iconomia lui Dumnezeu, atât de mult a înmultit hrana și bucatele celor flămânzi, încât din multimea oamenilor care veneau la dânșii făceau din pustia aceea o cetate" (Viețile Sfinților pe Iulie). Când după mulți ani, Sfântul Grigorie de Nyssa s-a dus săși vadă sora care acum era stareță, aceasta deși se afla în pragul morții ducea aceeași viață ascetică: "zăcea de boală, culcata nu pe pat sau pe așternut, ci pe pământ, pe o scândură. Ca așternut avea sub dânsa un sac de păr, iar în loc de pernă avea altă scândură pusă de-a curmezisul. Pe aceea își rezema capul și grumazul său" (Viețile Sfinților pe Iulie). Deși foarte bolnavă, Cuvioasa Macrina era fericită sufletește și își încuraja fratele. Cuvioasa Macrina a adormit întru Domnul pe 19 Iulie și în aceasta zi se sărbătorește ziua ei. După moartea ei. Sfântul Grigorie de Nyssa a aflat din gura unui tată cum Cuvioasa îi vindecase în mod miraculous fiica lui care avea un ochi bolnav. De asemenea a făcut și multe alte minuni.

Întrebări pentru părinți:

- De câte ori am încercat să ne ajutăm părinții în creșterea fraților noștri mai mici?
- Am incercat să ascultăm de frații noștri mai mari, și dacă aceștia ne-au ajutat le-am fost recunoscători? Cont. la pag. 24

Educarea Creștină a Familiei

Cont. de la pag. 23

- Ne-am ajutat părinții așa cum Macrina și-a ajutat mama?
- Cum se poartă copiii noștri unul cu altul? Se ajută la nevoie sau din neatenție am creat gelozie între ei lăudându-l pe unul tot timpul, iar pe celălalt certându-1 mereu, uneori chiar fără motiv? Nu există un copil atât de rău încât să nu se găsească ceva bun și în el. Trebuie doar să observăm puținul bun pe care-l face, să-l lăudăm un pic și atunci va prinde curaj să facă lucruri bune.
- Cum se poartă copiii nostri cu bunicii lor? Le dau respectul cuvenit sau doar stau două minute cu ei apoi aleargă la televizor pentru că bunicii sunt "plictisitori"? Dar oare nu cumva copiii noștri ne imită pe noi? "Dacă mama și tata spun că bunicii sunt "depășiți", așa o fi. Adevărul este că, cu toate computerele din lume și cu toate televizoarele, noi nu suntem mai deștepți decât părintii noștri. Știm mai bine engleza, avem mai multe informații, avem mașini și case scumpe, dar cu cât ne-au făcut acestea mai buni, cu cât ne-au apropiat mai mult de Dumnezeu? Dacă ne gândim bine, suntem mai departe de Dumnezeu decât erau părinții noștri și avem mai putină putere sufletească decât au ei, care au trecut prin atâtea. Trebuie să le vorbim copiiilor frumos despre părinții noștri, să le povestim

Invitație

Praznicul "Nașterii Prea Sfintei Născătoare de Dumnezeu" HRAMUL VETREI ROMÂNEȘTI

8 SEPTEMBRIE 2006

AGENDA

Joi, 7 Septembrie

6:00 pm Vecernia Mare urmată de Litie

Vineri, 8 Septembrie

8:00 am Utrenia

9:00 am

Sfânta Liturghie Arhierească (Slujită de IPS Arhiepiscop Nathaniel

și PS Episcop Irineu) urmată de agapa creștinească, donată de familia Virgil

și Emilia Barbu.

Vatra Românească 2522 Grev Tower Rd. Jackson Michigan 49201-9120

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prin câte necazuri au trecut. Copiii au nevoie de exemple reale, de eroi reali, pentu că părinții noștri sunt niște eroi, nu de personaje imaginare de la televizor, puse în situații imaginare, pe care azi le văd și mâine le uită. Dacă copiii noștri au norocul să aibă bunicii pe continentul acesta trebuie să-i încurajăm cât mai mult să învețe din înțelepciunea bunicilor. Bunicii pot să-i învețe mai bine religie decât noi pentru că ei au mai multă răbdare și trecând prin câte au trecut au o trăire religioasă mai puternică, și copiii simt aceasta. Prin exemplul lor personal, bunicii pot lăsa o amprentă puternică în sufletele copiiilor. Dacă bunicii sunt departe, putem să le aratăm copiiilor fotografii de-ale bunicilor, putem să le vorbim despre ei. Atât bunicii din partea tatălui meu, cât și bunicul din partea mamei au murit înainte ca eu să mă nasc. Bunica din partea mamei a murit când eu aveam un an. Dumnezeu să îi ierte. Cum arătau îi știu doar din niște fotografii vechi, îngălbenite. Dragostea lor pentru Dumnezeu, credința totală și ascultarea de El o știu din povestirile părinților mei. Am avut bunici? Nu am avut și totusi i-am avut; nu i-am cunoscut și totuși i-am cunoscut. Îi simt aproape de mine? Da, pentru că în momentele de cumpănă mă întreb cum ar fi procedat părinții mei, cum ar fi procedat bunicii mei. Şi simt mângâiere sufletească pentru că știu că drumul pe care îl aleg e drumul cel bun.

Dar voi, bunicilor, v-ați făcut datoria spirituală față

de nepotii vostri?

Cuvioasă Macrina, de acolo de sus, din cer, roagăte pentru noi! Așa cum ți-ai ajutat frații mai mici, ajută-ne și pe noi să mergem curați pe drumul ortodoxiei noastre.

Maica Preoteasă

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